



State of California
Respiratory Care Board
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Inquiry: I am writing to inquire about the extent of authorization a licensed Respiratory Therapist has regarding administering of pharmaceuticals. I am the Cath Lab Director at a hospital and one of my Cardiovascular Techs (CVT) is also a Respiratory Therapist with a current license. In his role as a CVT, I have cross-trained him to scrub cases with physicians. The scrub role is a standard role for the CVT to be cross-trained to, and the physician requires the scrub person to inject contrast into the patient while he/she manipulates the catheter, or moves the table under fluoroscopy. This, too, (injection of contrast by the scrub person) is a standard practice in Cath Labs nationwide. Can a licensed Respiratory Therapist inject contrast during procedures, under the direction of the physician who is always present?

Response: Cardiac catheterization injecting of contrast material is identified as Classification 1B, which is not verbatim from the Respiratory Care Practice Act (RCPA) but, in the Respiratory Care Board's judgment, highly inferred and allowed. Please see Section 3702 of the RCPA for more information.

Also, please be advised that the RCB suggests that a "respiratory care protocol, "as specified in Section 3702 of the RCPA, be developed for this procedure.

Reference # 1999-C-64